

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00908 142119Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----107743 150628Z /73

R 142104Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0032
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00908

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, XF
SUBJECT: SAFETY OF UNMO'S IN LEBANON

REF: JERUSALEM 710

1. MISOFF SPOKE WITH JONAH (UNSEC) MARCH 13 RE DESIRABILITY OF SIILASVUO VISIT TO LEBANON, PER PARA 6 REFTEL. WE NOTED CG HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH SIILASVUO BUT SUGGESTED ENCOURAGEMENT OF VISIT FROM UN HEADQUARTERS WOULD BE DESIRABLE. WE THOUGHT SUCH VISIT WOULD EMPHASIZE UN CONCERN OVER SITUATION AND ALSO HELP BOOST UNMO MORALE.

2. JONAH AGREED VISIT GOOD IDEA AND SAID UN INTENDED TO SUGGEST IT TO SIILASVUO. IN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO ANTICIPATED ISRAELI RETALIATION FOR TERRORIST ATTACK, HE NOTED WRYLRY THAT VISIT WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS MIGHT NOT BE VERY WISE. HE REPEATED, HOWEVER, THAT SIILASVUO WOULD BE URGED
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TO MAKE TRIP AT APPROPRIATE TIME IN NEAR FUTURE. HE ALSO SAID THAT REPORTS UNNY HAS FROM AREA INDICATE UNMO MORALE IS GOOD.

3. JONAH NOTED ISRAELIS WERE "NOT HAPPY" WITH FIRST JERUSALEM PRESS RELEASE ON MARCH 7 INCIDENT. HE HAD ANTICIPATED SUCH REACTION, HE SAID, SINCE EARLIER INCIDENTS

INVOLVING PALESTINIANS HAD NOT BEEN SIMILARLY PUBLICIZED. HOWEVER, WHEN AMBASSADOR HERZOG COMPLAINED TO HIM, JONAH HAD POINTED OUT THAT INJURY TO OBSERVER WAS UNUSUAL EVENT AND WARRANTED SPECIAL TREATMENT.

4. WE ALSO INFORMED JONAH THAT EMBASSY TEL AVIV WAS AUTHORIZED TO SUPPORT UN REQUEST ON SUPPLYING AND RELIEVING TWO OPS FROM ISRAELI SIDE OF BORDER. WE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS AUTHORIZATION PRECEDED MARCH 11 TERRORIST INCIDENT AND THAT EMBASSY MIGHT NOT CONSIDER IT PROPTIOUS MOMENT TO RAISE SUBJECT WITH GOI. YOUNG

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